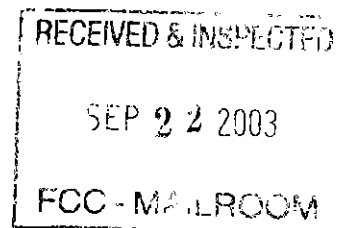




# Memorial Medical Center

September 9, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



**RE: WT Docket No. 99-87/RM-9322**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Memorial Medical Center would like to express its support for the petition for reconsideration filed by the Association of Public-Safety Communications (APCO) and other public safety organizations in the above referenced proceeding regarding mandatory migration to narrowband operations on land mobile radio systems in the VHF High Band (150-170 MHz) and UHF (421-512 MHz) frequencies.

It is understood and appreciated that the narrowband migration detailed in the administrative rules is necessary for long-term, efficient management of the frequency spectrum. However, consideration should be given to all response agencies potentially affected by the process. In central Illinois many of the EMS and emergency responders operate in rural environments, are dependent upon volunteers, and have limited financial resources available to them. Sustaining a viable communications network within the region and state is a mission critical element to the preparedness of healthcare institutions. Implementation of the rules as written could adversely impact the ability of emergency responders to effectively communicate with medical control points as well as other public service agencies.

We believe the concerns as expressed in the APCO petition warrant a thorough review by the Commission and request your assistance in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert T. Clarke  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Memorial Health System

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